

VANGUARD

PVMHS Vol. 1, No. 6

MAY 1974

"STALAG 17" A HIT!

.....

BY STEVE OLSWANG

On May 9, 10, and 11, the Peabody High Drama Guild presented its third production of the current school year, *Stalag 17*, a play written by Donald Bevan and Edmund Trzicinski.

The play, directed by Father Frank Toste, C.S.C., appears to be the most difficult production that the Drama Guild has attempted in recent years. *Stalag 17*, with its subtle ironies and melodramatic overtones, presents a challenge to any theatrical group that undertakes its production. The opening scene of the play, in attempting to set the mood for the rest of the play, was somewhat lost in direction, due to the nature of the complex character roles and conflicts that had to be developed and brought out. After this point, however, the play ran smoothly and freely, captivating the attention of the audience.

The play takes place in a barracks of *Stalag 17*, a prison camp that was operated by the Nazi Germans during World War II. The mood in the barracks is bleak. As time progresses, the men are

convinced that there is a German informer in their barracks. Repeated accusations are cast against Sefton (Steve Yaskell), who has always been an outcast from the rest of the barracks. The frequent accusations against Sefton are led by Stosh (Paul Broude), who is constantly antagonizing Sefton. The two American officers in the barracks, Price (Rick Johnston) and Hoffman (Robert Paciulan) try not to take sides, but as the play progresses, they, too, side against Sefton.

The play culminates in the physical beating of Sefton during the middle of the night. Sefton, even more bitter than before, still maintains his innocence, and continually raises the wrath of Stosh and the others by accusing any and all of them as being the possible informer. In the end, it turns out that Price is the real informer, and he has been using his position of authority to conceal his activities. No amount of retribution could possibly repay Sefton for all his

suffering, yet he is satisfied in knowing that the real informer has been found and that backalley justice has taken place.

The confrontation between Stosh and Sefton was developed superbly, reaching an intensity that only came about because of the fine portrayals by Paul Broude and Steve Yaskell. Broude preserved well the arrogant, haughty, and proud character of Stosh against the brooding and bitter Sefton, whose mannerisms Steve Yaskell also developed well. Other outstanding character performances were by Ed Garabedian as Harry Shapiro, the clown of the barracks and a friend of Stosh, and Henry Waters as Marko, the one-legged news officer of the camp, who continually droned on about "important" events that were happening in the camp. Garabedian and Waters provided much of the necessary comic relief in the play. However, all of the cast played their roles well, and

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Harry Shapiro (Ed Garabedian) clowns with his pseudo-comical guard Shultz (Stu Altshuler) (Safchuk photo.)

• P E R S P E C T I V E S •

FOR THE STUDENTS

My father once said, "It's not what you do that counts, just be best at it."

It takes a while to realize the full wisdom of this phrase. Be you future garbagr collectors or General Electric biochemists, it does not pay - in the long run - to neglect your work; for in society, you are depended upon by people who pay money for your services, but on the other hand, you depend upon others for their services, and obviously, you want the best services money can buy. So do not shirk your chosen profession; if you do, you weaken the very fabric this country (and society) is built upon. No one is asking for all of your time, nor is anyone asking you to achieve wonders or to be perfect. To ask for this is to ask for an unhuman earth. The name of the game is to try to be good at whatever you do. In this way we help ourselves, but most of all, we help each other.

A LOOK AT A 1959 OBSERVER

In December, 1959, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1 of the Observer appeared in the corridors of the now-abandoned Seeglitz Jr. High School. Back in those days, Seeglitz was the only high school, and the property on which PVMHS is built was still forest. Seeglitz lacked the equipment the three-year-old PVMHS has, but in '59, the Tanners were still able to rack up a 7-0 season. In fact, the Observer boasted of Leo "the Lion" Espindle, star quarterback of the year, for, as the magazine put it, "the Tanners shine in '59!"

65 people worked on the Observer staff in 1959. Ads from places such as Snak King and Kozy Korner appeared on the back of the Observer, two of more than 132 other ads the staff gathered.

The most admirable thing about the old Observer was the student participation and ingenuity involved. A record review section entitled "OFF THE RECORD (AND NO PAYOLA)" appeared in the December Observer. Reporters Shep Remis (now Councilman-at-Large) and Lawrence Gordon wrote on such performers as Belafonte, the late Bobby Darin, Elvis Presley, Johnny Mathis, Fabian and a group called The Kingston Trio. Songs such as "Queen of the Hop," "Misty," "It ain't necessarily So," and "Mack the Knife" were mentioned throughout the articles, along with a score of others.

A Poem appeared above the Senior Class Notes (the "HOT NEWS" section):

We love those crazy foamy frappes
The pastry's our favorite food
The music playing in our ear
Relates the beatnik mood

The bearded waiter, the dingy room
Are really quaint to see
We're on our way to the place right now,
Come join our beatnik spree.

By the way, "Rogi's" quotes the Observer, "is the Kat's pajamas."

VANGUARD

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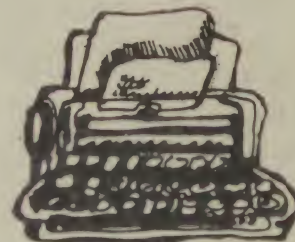
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Leslie Bistrowitz

Vanguard is a student journal of news and opinion published by the students of Peabody Veterans' Memorial High School. All correspondence should be addressed to Vanguard, c/o Peabody Veterans' Memorial High School, Peabody, Mass. 01960.



Printed by the graphic arts classes under the supervision of Mr. Doe.





To the Editor;

It all came to my attention when the Flatly Company sent invitations to some Peabody residents to visit their apartment complex in North Andover. This company would like to build 750 units of apartments on 220 acres of what is now known as Brooksby Farm. This is the only parcel of land of this kind and size left in Peabody. It consists of deep woods, open fields, orchards, ponds, streams and contains many species of small mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, flowers, shrubs and trees. Its' ecological setting is virtually untouched and has often invited larger animals such as bobcat, hawks, fox and deer.

Environmental science students have obtained permission to use this property in their studies, and in view of this fact, find it in their interest to protect it from develop-

A resident petition was discussed, but understandably was discouraged by Mr. Welch, who would like to see the land used as a conservation area, because in order to carry out a residential petition in the name of the high school, the three proposed plans for Brooksby Farm would have to be discussed; namely Flatlys' apartment complex,

Private home development and the land to be bought by the city for recreational or conservation use. On that point, Mr. Denning sent me a letter advising me that if the city were to purchase this land for conservation use, the Federal Government would fund 50¢ towards every purchase dollar, and the state could contribute another 25¢ towards that purchase.

Volunteers have petitioned the students at the High School, and they now have over 600 signatures which will be submitted to the City Council.

There is a public hearing coming up in June on the Brooksby Farm purchase. If you are interested and want to help out, you may do your part by informing your parents, getting in touch with your Ward Councilors, and being at the public hearing with your parents!

Mr. Paul DeCourcy

To the Editor:

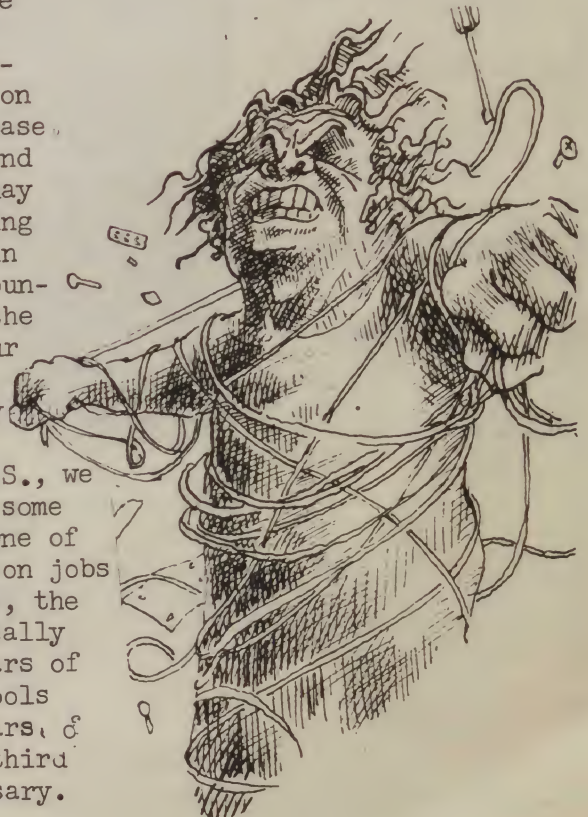
At good old P.V.M.H.S., we are conned into taking some unnecessary courses. One of the schools' favorite con jobs is the foreign language, the old line being, "You really ought to have three years of a language". Most schools only ask for 1 or 2 years of a language, while the third year is really unnecessary.

"It has given you further insight." say the guidance counselors, (being happy that they didn't have to suffer through the course). To top everything off, the average of all your combined courses may have dropped about ten points, and you probably wound up having to suffer through 45 minutes of listening to a boring teacher talking in a language that you can barely understand.

Another famous con job is math. A lot of people I know suffered through Algebra III and found out that the college of their choice asked for only two years of math. I must admit, however, that there are more schools that ask for three years of math than three years of a language. The math is of more value to most people than the language (which you will soon forget, and probably never be able to use again).

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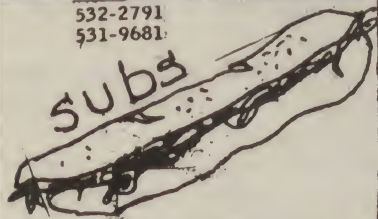
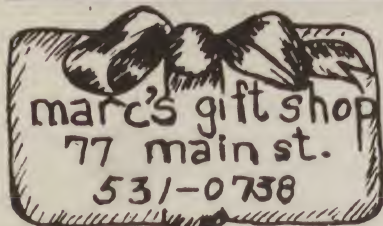
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(FPS) There are now more poor people in the world than ever. And the U.S. is giving less economic aid while at the same time it's taking out more natural resources from the poor countries than ever before. And Congress increasingly has opposed helping other countries to do anything but combat Communism - - with military aid, police training, propaganda, etc.

As 1973 ended, the world looked like this: There

are 3.8 billion people on earth, give or take 200 million because computations are often vague. Of the total, about 30%, those who live in North America, Europe, the Soviet Union, and Japan, are rich. They earn generally more than \$3000 a year, or \$8.21 a day. They consume 92% of the world's energy (the U.S. alone takes a third) and most of the other mineral wealth.

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18 age of majority?

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BOSTON GLOBE

Many of the state agencies which should be enforcing a law which in January gave 20-year-olds the legal rights and responsibilities of adults act as though no law has ever been made.

In 1971, 18-year-olds were given the right to vote on the reasoning that if they were old enough to fight a war, they should be able to choose their own political leaders. Two years later, in March, 1973, they were given the right to drink. Nine months later, the 18-year age of majority law went into effect.

This law gives 18, 19 and 20 year olds the right to sign contracts a(such as leases), auto loans, home mortgages, to sit on juries and to be liable for unpaid debts, 19-year-olds can even become cops.

-But this just isn't happening-

A check list at the state Division of Civil Service reveals no state policemen or correctional officers under age 21. Asked why the state

hasn't hired any 19-20 year old policemen, William F. McRell, Assistant Director of the Civil Service, said, "Oh, that doesn't go into effect until 1975," Similarly, the state Corrections Department believed that one had to be at least 22 years old to qualify for a corrections officer position. The State Police, Boston Police Department and Boston Fire Department expressed related opinions.

-But the new law clearly states that 19-year-olds are eligible as of last January for all of these jobs-

As for extending credit to 18 to 21 year olds, most merchants and banks say they are more than willing to provide the credit, but there has been little demand for it.

"An 18-year-old must have a steady job to be eligible for credit. If he does well for a year, we double his credit. But we haven't had as many applicants as we'd like," commented Lawrence Brennan, Vice President of National Shawmut Bank of Boston.

-The credit requirements are, however, less stringent for an adult-

At MIT, some 18-20 year-olds are still having problems signing leases. Many landlords still insist on a parent's signature, even though the student would also be liable for rent.

Communities all over the state are beginning to include the younger citizens on jury lists, but a spot check showed no city or town where an 18-year-old has served on a jury.

Although 18-year-olds have been allowed to drink for more than a year, some drinking establishments have attempted to set up arbitrary age re-

quirements in order to keep out younger drinkers. This violates the 18-20 year-olds' rights.

-But the lower drinking age may also have brought more problems than privileges to young persons-

"The number of fatal accidents has gone up by 15% and there has been a 124% increase

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umass announces . . .

This fall, 100 selected freshmen at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst will be able to study in an alternate educational project called Global Survival Freshman Year Program.

This program consists of interdisciplinary study based on the view that fundamental concerns of the present and future (such as war, peace, world order, and environmental deterioration) must be understood if our planet is to survive. Five major areas of concern will be studied.

The global survival program is meant to be an intellectually-challenging, first-year college program designed to provide a well-rounded framework for study in the liberal arts.

The 100 freshmen are being chosen from a variety of backgrounds and interests. Places in the 1974-75 class are still open; full information on the program is available from the Global Survival Freshman Year director, Steve Guild, at 237 Hills-North, UMass, Amherst, 01002, or call 545-0370.

Amherst, Mass.--A series of 30 summer "How-to" workshops intended to teach participants how to live with the current energy/economic crunch has been announced by the Division of Continuing Education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Conceived as a living Whole Earth Catalogue, "Toward Tomorrow: A Symposium of Alternatives" is a series of courses designed to find a place in the lives of all people who are concerned with their environment and their future.

Beginning June 14, week-long sessions will be held on such topics as alternative energy sources, food production, shelter, ecology, and "funky stuff" that includes projects ranging from the building of electric cars to sensitivity training.

Most sessions will be repeated each week during three consecutive weeks. Enrollment is open to the general public, and participants may register for one, two, or three weeks of workshops. This unique summer college program will be held at the UMass-Amherst campus, with many workshops conducted outdoors. (Plans are being made for a campground site for people wishing to camp out overnight.)

Participants taking part in the extensive "how-to" learning experiences will actually find themselves constructing windmills or taking a float trip down the Connecticut River. "Students will be able to come away from their workshops with a practical working knowledge

of how to build, measure and grow," according to program director Fran Koster. "Toward Tomorrow" will pull together people seeking a variety of personal alternative life styles, and will offer credit options for these learning experiences. In addition, outside speakers who are experts in their field will be frequent visitors, he added. A sampling of courses to be offered include beekeeping, organic gardening, vegetarian cooking, methane gas digesters, solar home heating, freezing, canning and drying of food, wine and beer making, bio-feedback, steam cars, domes and ethical dilemmas.

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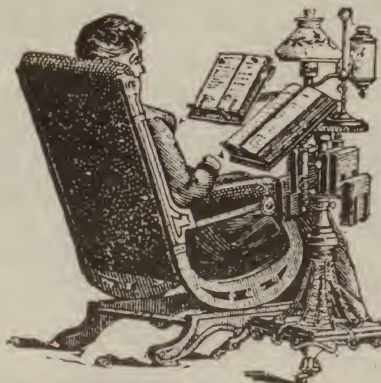
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SCIENCE CHAMPS!

The Eighteenth Annual Science Fair for the greater Merrimack Valley schools was held on April 5th and 6th this year at Cumnock Hall at Lowell Tech. Technorama XVIII (sponsored by the Lowell Sun and LTI) received two P.V.M.H.S. entrants this year: Constantine (Chuck) Darzenta, whose project is entitled "VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY IN RATS", and Joseph E. Maciewicz, whose project "GRAYFISH: A TWO YEAR STUDY" won him a money award from the Union National Bank and a gold medal representative of the five top winners in the fair. Both awards were presented to Maciewicz by Dr. Everett V. Olsen, President of the Lowell Technological Institute.

25 students were chosen from Technorama XVIII (a regional fair) to attend the 25th Annual Massachusetts State Science Fair held at MIT's Rockwell Cage on April 26th and 27th. Both Maciewicz and Darzenta were among the 25 chosen to participate in the state fair. The two P.V.M.H.S. sophomores received honorable mentions for the presentation of their projects at MIT.



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Theatre Workshop

On Saturday, May 11, the New England Theatre Conference (NETC) Secondary School Theatre Division, under the coordination of Father Frank Toste of PVMHS and James Kitendaugh of Manchester, held an all-day workshop at PVMHS.

The workshop lasted from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM, the day culminating with the PVMHS Drama Clubs' final performance of "STALAG 17", which began, as a final exhibit, at 8:00 PM.

Representatives of Cambridges' famous improvisation group, "THE PROPOSITION" (two time visitors of PVMHS) conducted a two-hour lecture-demonstration on the art of improvisation. NETC student members from Peabody High - as well as from other Massachusetts schools - participated in this, as in all, demonstrations.

Three workshops ran

simultaneously; they were (1) Lighting, conducted by Richard Nourse, a demonstration on effective, professional stage illumination; (2) Make-up demonstration, conducted by Lee Baygan (NBC-TV'S Make-up Dept. head), a discussion on the various uses of make-up on the screen and in the theatre; and (3) Scene painting, a demonstration on scene and drop painting for better dramatic and mood-setting effects.

These workshops lasted from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, and were repeated at 4:00 to 6:00 PM in order to give convention participants a chance to attend two complete seminars.

A buffet and social hour was held from 6:00 to 8:00 to freshen up convention participants for the PVMHS Drama Guilds' evening performance.

POOR READER SUES

SAN FRANCISCO (FPS) "Peter N. Doe" graduated from a San Francisco high school last year with a B-minus average - but could only read at a fifth grade level.

When his mother discovered his plight, despite assurances by school officials that he was attaining the proper reading level, she decided to sue the school district for \$1 million.

Her unique decision has sent a shock wave of questions across the United States about educational quality and how much legal responsibility schools and teachers have for instilling in students a skill as basic as reading.

Suzane Martinez, the San Francisco attorney for "Peter N. Doe" said the

national attention on the suit has "led to a lot of different strategies being developed in other states, including possible class action suits and challenges to teacher certification and other procedures of state educational systems."

"The case in San Francisco," said Mrs. Martinez "derives its legal basis from questions of negligence, misrepresentation and several statutory claims."

Since the suit was filed late last year but not yet served on the San Francisco school district, the school district has voluntarily said it will set goals for students and possibly would not issue diplomas if a student is

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BOOKS SHOW BIAS

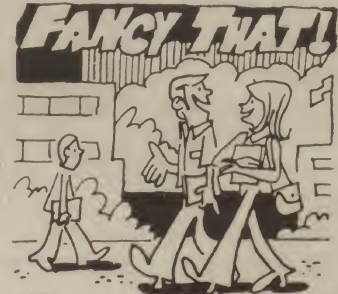
(FPS) The first textbook bias complaint has been filed with the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, charging discrimination against girls in basic reading texts. The complaint was filed by the Committee to Study Sex Discrimination in the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

It requests an immediate HEW investigation in order "to persuade the Kalamazoo Board of Education to adopt a non-discriminatory reading program." If this action fails, the Committee will seek to have Federal funds cut off from the Kalamazoo School System.

The Committee's objections are based on "sex role stereotyping and an unfair portrayal of women," and the under-representation of girls in stories.

Although over 50% of the elementary school population is female, the textbooks show 80% of leading characters as male. In one second grade reader, 6 out of 10 stories are mainly about boys, and the other four are about animals.

A sixth grade reader mentions 16 famous men but only one woman. Throughout the texts, women are portrayed as mothers, school teachers, and nurses, while men are portrayed in a wide range of exciting occupations.



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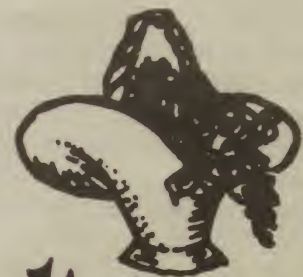
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AGE OF MAJORITY
continued from page 6

in the number where drinking was involved," says public safety secretary Richard McLaughlin. "In a time period studied, we went from 34 to 89 dear 89 deaths - and that's a 134.2% increase in the number killed."

"There has been an extraordinary increase in the number of multiple deaths in these crashes, because young people of the 18-20 age tend to travel in groups," he said. "I fought against this thing for years, but I don't make laws," added the safety secretary.

-In all, the 18 to 20 year-olds say that the new law hasn't had much impact on them-

"The law hasn't really changed anything in my life," says one 20-year-old college student, "it just means I can make a parachute jump now without my parents having to sign a waiver."

PIESTRIKESBACK!

DETROIT (FPS) Underground newspaper reporter Pat Halley says he is "living under fear" following the beating he suffered last August at the hands of followers of the Guru Maharaj Ji.

Halley, who was assaulted several days after throwing a shaving cream pie in the face of the spiritual leader of the Divine Light Mission, filed a million dollar suit in Wayne County Circuit Court.

After the beating surgery was required in which a piece of his skull was replaced with plastic.

"Three or four times a day I confront a stranger and wonder if I am going to be attacked," he said. "They almost killed me for throwing a pie."

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STALAG-cont. from pg. 1

there were few weak spots in the acting of the play.

With the presentation of this play, Father Toste has taken the Drama Guild to its highest point so far. In Peabody as well as in the rest of the North Shore, there is much acclaim for both Father Toste and the Drama Guild, all of which is well deserved. This year, there have been three fine plays presented by the Drama Guild, a feat unparalleled by any other school. Certainly, Father Toste and the Drama Guild deserve recognition for representing themselves and Peabody High so well.



The prisoners gather around the newcomers Reed (Dan Doucette, far left) and Dunbar (Harold Lloyd, far right), intent on learning outside news.
(Safchuk photo.)

"SUES" cont. from page 8
unable to read at the proper level.

At the National Education Association (NEA) conference in Portland, Ore., Judge Haskell C. Freedman from Middlesex, Mass., said such malpractice suits attempt to make "scapegoats" out of teachers and school boards.

"Teachers have little voice in financing, equipping, or organizing schools," he said. "There is no constitutional right of literacy, and the child himself might be guilty of contributory negligence."

But in the case of "Peter N. Doe" there was no disciplinary problem, and the young man had a normal attendance record. According to Mrs. Martinez, the young man's mother has placed the boy under a tutor and within six months his reading ability has jumped nearly two years. His response to tutoring also established his ability to learn.

The suit contends that "Peter N. Doe" graduated "unqualified for employment other than the most unskilled, low paid manual labor" and that the law required the educational system to ensure that he met certain requirements before receiving a diploma.



ARMY OFFER

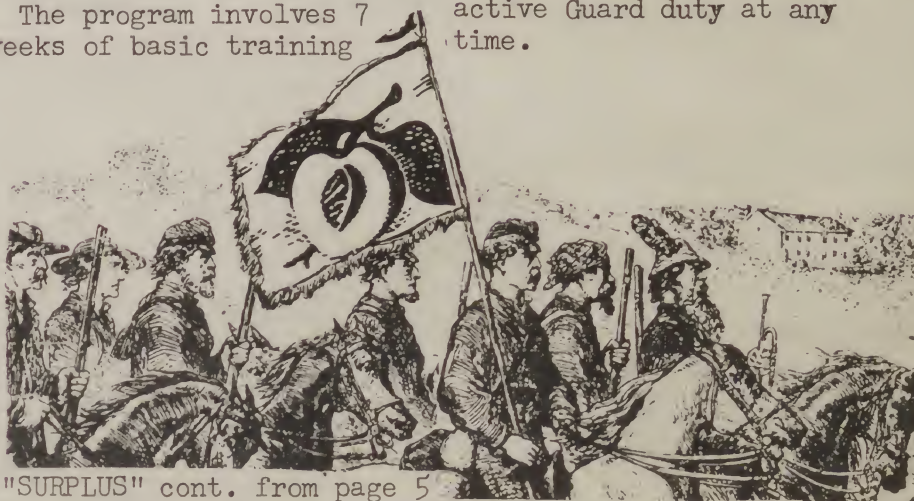
(FPS) High school students in Oregon will soon be "allowed" to skip the senior year and enlist in the National Guard.

What the student gets out of it is a high school diploma, \$326 a month, and training in various fields such as construction, communications, office work, airplane repair, cooking, surveying, and dental work, etc.

The program involves 7 weeks of basic training

followed by two months to a year of skills training. Sounds like a lot of dissatisfied students would jump at the chance, doesn't it?

What the U.S. military gets out of it is a lot of people who agree to, after training, a 3 year period of one weekend with the Guard per month, 2 weeks annual summer camp, and who can be called to active Guard duty at any time.



"SURPLUS" cont. from page 5

The other 70% of the world's population, those who have to get by on 65 cents a day, divide the remaining 8% of the world's energy and its leftover minerals.

Each year, the world gains about 78 million new people to feed. Most are born in poor countries. More and more, the U.S. agribusiness can sell their food at higher and higher prices to a highly competitive, desperate market of starving nations. There will be no more government food donations to the poor countries when it's so profitable for companies to sell food at such high prices.

As a result, even Ameri-

cans will feel the shortages as foods are sold to buyers overseas who pay more than Americans will. Paradoxically, even countries with starving people export food "surpluses" (India and Ethiopia, for example). "Surplus" means they have more food than people can pay for. So the poor people starve to death while government and business sell food elsewhere. Profits come before people.

As you know, the Soviet Union bought up American wheat, Japan bought up soy beans and fructose, etc. Even non-food commodities -- like wool and cotton -- have been sold out of the U.S.

